Edward Markey calls torture "morally repugnant" launches a Bill to end the of rendition

"In a speech on the floor of the House, Mr. Markey, a Democrat, said: 'Torture is morally repugnant whether we do it or whether we ask another country to do it for us. It is morally wrong whether it is captured on film or whether it goes on behind closed doors unannounced to the American people. "
[New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/28/opinion/28herbert.html, 2/28/05]

House Speaker's office defends the "outsourcing of torture" as a cost savings to taxpayers

"U.S. taxpayers should not necessarily be on the hook for their judicial and incarceration costs." [New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/2005/02/28/opinion/28herbert.html, 2/28/05]

CIA official calls rendition "abominable" – says program is "wide and ill-defined"

"Rendition was originally carried out on a limited basis, but after September 11th, when President Bush declared a global war on terrorism, the program expanded beyond recognition—becoming, according to a former C.I.A. official, "an abomination." What began as a program aimed at a small, discrete set of suspects—people against whom there were outstanding foreign arrest warrants—came to include a wide and ill-defined population that the Administration terms "illegal enemy combatants."

[New Yorker, http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?050214fa_fact6, 2/15/05]

Gonzales: Interrogation rules do not apply to American interrogations of foreigners overseas

"Gonzales, the new Attorney General, argued during his confirmation proceedings that the U.N. Convention Against Torture's ban on "cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment" of terrorist suspects does not apply to American interrogations of foreigners overseas." [New Yorker, http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?050214fa_fact6, 2/15/05]

Representative Edward Markey (D-MA), introduced legislation to outlaw the practice of sending terrorism suspects to foreign governments to be tortured

"Extraordinary rendition is outsourcing torture, and it is morally repugnant to allow such a practice to continue," said Rep. Markey. Rep. Markey added, "The legislation I am introducing today is designed to ensure that we not only ban torture conducted by our own forces, but we also stop the practice of contracting out torture to other nations. Torture enabled by extraordinary rendition is outrageous and must be stopped." [http://www.house.gov/markey/human_rights.htm, 2/17/05]

Markey: "Extraordinary rendition endangers US soldiers"

Rep. Markey concluded, "Extraordinary rendition violates the Convention Against Torture, which the U.S. has signed and ratified. Sending suspects to nations where they are likely to be tortured puts our own soldiers at risk of being subjected to the same brutal treatment." http://www.house.gov/markey/human rights.htm, 2/17/05]

Canadian citizen Arar taken to Syria by the US government was beaten by Syrian officials

"I opened my right hand ... and he beat me very strongly," says Arar. "He said, 'Open your left hand.' And I opened my left hand. And he beat me on my palm, on my left palm. And then he stopped, and he asked me questions. And I said to him, 'I have nothing to hide. They would take me back to a room, they call it the waiting room. And I hear people screaming. And they, I mean, people, they're being tortured. And I felt my heart was going to go out of my chest." [CBS News,

http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/01/21/48hours/main594974.shtml, 1/21/05]

Secret renditions have become a "principal weapon" – the practice has grown

Since Sept. 11, 2001, secret renditions have become a principal weapon in the CIA's arsenal against suspected al Qaeda terrorists, according to congressional testimony by CIA officials. But as the practice has grown, the agency has had significantly more difficulty keeping it secret. [Washington Post, http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A27826-2004Dec26?language=printer, 1/27/04]